

Court & Community

Claire E. Cooper
Chief



DISTRICT OF MAINE

J. Martin Wahrer
Deputy Chief

U.S. PROBATION & PRETRIAL SERVICES

OUR VISION

A United, Professional Organization Committed to Excellence

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the Court appropriate recommendations for bail conditions and sentences through accurate, timely and thorough investigations. We will equitably supervise our offenders to accomplish positive change and diminish any risk to the citizens of Maine communities.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. We will work collectively with and show respect for judges, attorneys, defendants, investigative agencies and the community, and provide cost effective and efficient services to aid in the reintegration of defendants into the communities by encouraging lifestyle modifications.
2. We will maintain the integrity of the Court by providing consistent, quality information and continually striving for improvement by maintaining the highest level of professionalism.
3. We will at all times exemplify our Code of Conduct through our work, actions and by maintaining the confidentiality of all cases.
4. We will remain a united district open to new ideas and changes through ongoing evaluation and a cooperative team effort.
5. We will document our work through statistical methods and establish automated programs with limited use of paper.
6. We will use our administrative and clerical

staff to provide specialized assistance.

7. We will be considered a district of excellence at the national level.

DISTRICT COVERAGE & LOCATION

The state of Maine is one federal district located in the First Circuit. Investigations and supervision for Kennebec, Franklin, Waldo, Somerset, Penobscot, Hancock, Washington, Piscataquis, and Aroostook counties are covered by our Bangor Office. The contact person and the office address are:

Richard Harburger, Supervisor
U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services
202 Harlow Street, Room 209
Bangor, Maine 04401
(207) 945-0369 Fax (207) 945-0305

Investigations and supervision for Androscoggin, Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc and York, are covered by the Portland office. The two contact people and the office address are:

Karen-Lee Moody, Supervisor
Julie Morse, Supervisor
537 Congress Street, Suite 305
Portland, Maine 04101
(207)780-3358 Fax (207)780-3784

PRETRIAL SERVICES INVESTIGATION & SUPERVISION

A pretrial investigation is conducted by the U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Office in almost all new federal cases in Maine. The result of the investigation is the bail report. This report aids the Court in deciding whether a defendant should remain in custody pending trial or be released on pretrial supervision. An average of 40% of our defendants are detained compared to the national average of 50%.

A large percentage of defendants who receive bail and are under pretrial supervision present serious substance abuse and mental health problems. As we put forth our best efforts to assist these defendants to maintain sobriety and to minimize the risk of danger they pose to the community, we provide detoxification, residential and outpatient treatment. Proper and effective supervision of these challenging defendants requires placement in programs that address both the substance abuse and mental health issues, frequent follow-up with those treatment providers and regular field contacts. Home confinement with electronic monitoring is frequently ordered as a condition of release by the District's Magistrate Judges. The violation of bail rate in the District of Maine averages 7% well below the 17% national average

PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION & SENTENCING

Drug, fraud and firearms charges comprise most of the new cases in the District of Maine. In the District of Maine approximately 94% of all cases plea with the remaining 6% going to trial. This is comparable to the national average. In all cases, the District Court Judges order the probation office to prepare a thorough and complete presentence investigation for the purposes of sentencing. The time frame for completing the presentence report is set out in Local Rule 132. It states that the probation office has 42 calendar days after the verdict or finding of guilt to disclose the report to both counsel and to the defendant. Any objections to the report must be made in writing to the probation office within 14 days after receipt of the report. Within 7 calendar days of receiving any objections, the probation office shall conduct any further investigation and make any revisions to the report. An addendum setting

forth any unresolved objections is attached to the revised report and submitted to the sentencing judge, counsel and the defendant. Of the sentences imposed by our Judges, an average of 84% receive a sentence of prison with supervised release (supervision) to follow.

POST CONVICTION SUPERVISION

The new millennium saw over 300 offenders on supervision. In addition to growth in numbers, we saw a change in the type of offenders under supervision. As computer crime and special needs offenders became more prevalent upon their release from prison, we focused our attentions on enforcement of court ordered sanctions, control of risk to the community and correctional treatment. Our number one concern is the safety to the communities of Maine. The conditions of supervision for each offender are strictly monitored. However, there are times when offenders are unable to comply with their conditions of supervision and must return to incarceration.

We are very proud of our treatment services program and believe that it is very effective. We utilize outside agencies for inpatient and outpatient counseling. Each offender is required by law to submit to urinalysis. The district collects approximately 4,000 urine samples each year with an average of 7% positive for the use of illicit drugs. The number one drug of choice pursuant to the positive test results is marijuana (64%). The second drug of choice is heroin (19%), followed by cocaine (14%).

The officers not only have contact with the offenders in the office, but other supervision techniques are necessary. These include home inspections and collateral contacts with employers and family members. The supervision officers spend more than 20% of their time conducting field work.